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1906





THE LIFE OF  
SIR THOMAS BODLEY  
*&c.*

*An Edition of two hundred and fifty copies in this form and of twenty-five copies on Large Paper was printed at The Merrymount Press, Boston, in November, 1906*

THE LIFE OF  
SIR THOMAS BODLEY  
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF  
TOGETHER WITH  
THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE  
STATUTES  
OF THE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
AT OXON



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## PREFACE





## PREFACE

**A**S what is known of Sir Thomas Bodley's early life is derived from the short sketch "written by himself," which is reprinted here, it is unnecessary to speak of that period at any length.

Of "worshipful parentage;" brought as a small boy in Geneva under the teachings of men like Chevallier, Beroald, Calvin, Beza, and Robert Constantine; educated later at Oxford, where he passed many years both as student and lecturer; an accomplished linguist through years of travel and residence in foreign countries, he was well adapted to

a career of diplomacy, and was selected by Queen Elizabeth for many state embassies, which he recounts with naïve pride. He seems to have conducted these embassies with tact and ability, but they are almost forgotten, while Sir Thomas will always be remembered for the library which bears his name, at whose door he “set up his staff” when, tired of statecraft, he withdrew from public life, determining still to “do the true part of a profitable member of the state.”

His own account of his life ends here, with the wish that the library itself may show how well he has sped in his endeavours. And who could wish a nobler

monument!

“It is surely unnecessary,” says old Anthony à Wood, “to repeat the praise of such a man as Thomas Bodley, a man whose name will perish only with that of his country. The obligations which literature owes to the exertions of this individual can only be estimated by those who have opportunity as well as occasion to consult the inestimable treasures he bequeathed to the place of his education.” A more modern tribute is paid by Mr. Augustine Birrell in his agreeable essay, *In the Name of the Bodleian*: “Springing out of the mind, heart, and head of one strong, efficient, and resolute

man, it is matter for rejoicing with every honest gentleman to be able to observe how quickly the idea took root, how well it has thriven, by how great a tradition it has become consecrated, and how studiously the wishes of the founder in all their essentials are still observed and carried out."

The first actual university library at Oxford, called after its benefactor, Bishop Cobham, was begun in 1367, in a small upper room, lighted by four windows. Even before that a few books had been kept in chests, to be "lent out under pledges," while others were chained to desks for public reading. Bishop Cobham's

books, by the way, were nearly lost to the university because the poor Bishop died without enough money to pay for his funeral expenses; but a kindly friend redeemed the books and sent them to Oxford, in accordance with the last wishes of the Bishop.

It was not many years before the building of a more worthy room was begun, and to appeals for aid in the new enterprise Duke Humphrey of Gloucester responded so liberally with both money and books that he is often called the founder. It is of Duke Humphrey, that “religious, good, and learned Prince,” the patron of all learning, that quaint Thomas Hearne

(the story of whose connection with the library is an interesting one) tells us that, whenever he saw his handwriting in the library, he used to “show a particular sort of respect” to it. What this “sort of respect” was, history does not say.

Another forerunner of the university library was the collection presented to Durham College by that early and earnest lover of books, Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, with the injunction that it was to be free to all scholars, who might carry away books for purposes of study, provided they left pledges exceeding their value. On the dissolution of Durham College by Henry VIII

some of these books found their way into “Duke Humphrey’s Library.” Other benefactors were Bishop Kempe and John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester. The library soon lost some of its treasures, however, for there are records that “scholars borrowed books upon petty or insufficient pledges, and so chose to forfeit the latter rather than return the former.”

But dire calamity was to come! In 1550 the commissioners appointed by Edward VI in his zeal for reformation visited the library at Oxford, destroying all illuminated manuscripts as “necessarily Popish,” and leaving everything exposed to harm and

pillage. Traditions have been handed from one generation to another of the vandalism that went on. Some of the books were burned, some sold to bookbinders, tailors and shoemakers, who found vellum and parchment procured thus cheaply most useful in their trades. The rest disappeared mysteriously, but so completely that, six years later, the university itself, having no books, sold the very shelves and benches, and the room was left desolate. And so young Thomas Bodley found it when he was entered at Magdalen College four years after the final ruin had been wrought. He must have been deeply touched

by the traces of recent destruction; for the thought of them followed him through the years spent away from Oxford, and was destined finally to bear rich fruit.

Having first counted the cost, and made sure that he was “furnished in a competent proportion” with the four aids necessary to success in his enterprise, — knowledge, “purse-ability,” “great store of honourable friends,” and abundant leisure, — Thomas Bodley wrote, on the twenty-third of February, 1597-8, to the vice-chancellor of the university, offering to “reduce again to its former use” the room which, with the statute re-

cords, alone remained to prove that there had once been a “public library” at Oxford, by fitting it with the necessary shelves and seats, procuring for it gifts of books, and by an annual endowment. The offer was most gratefully accepted, and from that time the story of the founder is practically that of the library.

Bodley’s firm confidence in his “honourable friends” was not misplaced: gifts came pouring in, both from those who shared his enthusiasm and from those who “wished to be written in the scroll of the benefactors,” for whose recognition wise provision was made. The expense of fitting up the room was far greater than

had been anticipated; but Bodley was nothing daunted, and the library was formally opened in November, 1603. Visitors flocked to this “the first practically public library in Europe,” and King James I was twice an appreciative guest. He granted letters patent the year after it was opened, calling the library by Bodley’s name, and soon afterwards knighted the founder, whose name, said he, should have been not Bodley, but “Godley.”

The first catalogue appeared in 1605, and before many years, the library having outgrown its quarters, extensions were begun.

Sir Thomas wrote his *Life* in 1609, and the original manu-

script is preserved in the Bodleian. It was printed first in 1647, by Henry Ball. In 1703 Thomas Hearne (later sub-librarian) included it, as reprinted here, in his *Reliquiae Bodleianae*, together with Sir Thomas's *First Draught of the Statutes* of the library, and a collection of letters written by him to Thomas James, the first librarian. The latter is known for his editions of Richard de Bury's *Philobiblon*, one of which has a long dedication to Bodley. It is fortunate indeed that these letters have been preserved, for they are a most truthful witness of the unceasing activity and industry, the indefatigable attention even to matters of minutest

detail, and the unending devotion which Sir Thomas lavished upon his self-appointed task.

“I have spoken here with Mr. Farmer,” he says, “who hath promised, that whensoever you come after Thursday next, he will be at Home. He hath a Cart-load of Books, of which you may make your choice, which he will cause to be new bound at Oxon. You shall do well, in my Opinion, to be there some morning very early, least he ride abroad, and not come in till Night.” And again: “Now I must entreat you to send me the Register-Book, wherein the Benefactors’ Names and Gifts shall be recorded. For I will begin, to have it written.

It would be packed up in a Coffin of Boards, with Paper thick about it, and Hay between it and the Boards. I pray you be careful about it, and let me receive it the next Week, sent by the Waggon for Fear of Rain."

At another time he writes: "I pray you salute and intreat Mr. Principal from me, to cause such Bars to be supplied, as are wanting: And your self I would request to write as often as you find a fit Messenger, to the Chain-man, to dispatch the rest of the Books, and to make as many Chains before Midsummer, as is possible. For I am like to bring more Books, than is imagined. I do not find in your

Catalogue *Fricius de Rep. emendanda*, and yet I think it is in the Library, whereof I pray you advertise me: And likewise what Works of *Sigonius* are wanting."

In speaking of an unusually large number of books which he is sending, he says: ". . . which will add more and more unto your Care and trouble, as it doth unto mine, who am toiled exceedingly, and assure your self, no less than yourself, with Writing, Buying, Binding, Disposing, &c. besides all mine own Business, which are of no moment. But I am fed with the Pleasure of seeing some end before it be long: Which must be likewise your Comfort."

“I do not doubt but you have divers Books double, which proceedeth in part of the Imperfection of your Catalogue, wherein are sundry books omitted that are in the Library: but withal, the Fault is mine, and Jo. Bill’s, who dealing with multitudes, must of force make many Scapes,” is one kindly comment. Bill was the London bookseller employed to buy books on the Continent, while works of the English press were furnished by the Stationers’ Company, in accordance with an agreement by which the library received a copy of every book published by them.

Sometimes good Sir Thomas’s

friendship of long standing with Mr. James is slightly tried when the regular bulletins of the library's welfare, lists of donations, and work on the catalogue are delayed or imperfect; or when Mr. James hints that an increase of his stipend (something over five pounds quarterly at first) would be acceptable, or shows a desire to become "encumbered with marriage," a state which Sir Thomas deems inexpedient to the welfare of the library. But in general the letters are marked by confidence and kindly consideration.

There are some clauses of the statutes which time has proved to be unwise; Mr. Birrell calls

attention particularly to the provision for the disposal of duplicates which led to the sale of the Bodleian's First Folio of Shakespeare, the discovery and identification of which make one of the romances of bibliography. But for the most part these statutes show amazingly wise forethought and a broad and businesslike grasp of the needs of the library, both in his own day and in time to come.

After a lingering illness, Sir Thomas Bodley died on January 28, 1613. He had married, when about forty years old, Ann Ball, a wealthy widow, whose death preceded his by a year and a half. He left no children and

made the university his heir, causing thereby some reproach, although his carefully drawn will is full of bequests to various relatives, servants and friends. A sum of nearly seven hundred pounds was left to provide suits of mourning and a dinner for a large number of people, many of whom were poor scholars. The principal legatee among his kinsmen was his brother Laurence, Canon of Exeter. Another brother, Sir Josias, a soldier and military engineer, who had presented several astronomical instruments to the library, was remembered, and also nieces, nephews and stepchildren. A sister who had gained his disap-

proval by eloping with a poor minister was completely overlooked in the will. Some hundred years later her descendants, being very poor and infirm, begged aid from the university.

In his will Bodley had desired to be buried in the chapel of Merton College, and his wishes were carried out with great ceremony, the funeral oration being delivered by Sir Isaac Wake, the public orator. Volumes of verse were printed in commemoration of him, and a monument in his honour was erected in Merton Chapel.

It is interesting to follow with Dr. Macray, in his *Annals of the Bodleian Library*, the growth of

the great collection until we read of half a million volumes over which Mr. Nicholson, the librarian of to-day, presides, and we can but repeat, with emphasis which the years increase, the words of Anthony à Wood: "Another Ptolemy! . . . by his noble and generous endeavours he hath been the occasion of making hundreds of public writers, and of increasing in an high degree the commonwealth of learning."

RUTH SHEPARD GRANNISS

*New York, June 1, 1906*



RELIQUIÆ BODLEIANÆ  
OR  
SIR THOMAS BODLEY'S  
REMAINS





THE LIFE OF  
SIR THOMAS BODLEY  
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF

I WAS born at *Exeter in Devonshire*, the 2d of *March*, in the Year 1544; descended, both by Father and Mother, of Worshipful Parentage. By my Father's side, from an ancient Family of *Bodley*, or *Bodleigh*, of *Dunscombe* by *Crediton*; and by my Mother from *Robert Hone* Esq; of *Offerey Saint Mary*, nine Miles from *Exeter*. My Father in the time of Queen *Mary*, being noted and known to be an Enemy to Popery, was so cruelly threatned, and so narrowly observed by those that maliced his Religion, that for the Safe-

guard of himself, and my Mother, who was wholly affected as my Father, he knew no way so secure, as to fly into *Germany*: Where after a while he found means to call over my Mother, with all his Children and Family; whom he settled for a time at *Wesel* in *Cleveland*: ( For there as then were many *English*, which had left their Country, for their Conscience, and with Quietness enjoyed their Meetings, and Preachings ) and from thence we removed to the Town of *Franckford*, where was in like sort another *English* Congregation. Howbeit we made no long tarriance in either of those two Towns, for that my Father had resolved to fix his Abode in the

City of *Geneva*: Where, (as far as I remember) the *English* Church consisted of some hundred Persons. I was at that time of 12 Years of Age; but through my Father's Cost and Care, sufficiently instructed to become an Auditor of *Chevalerius* in *Hebrew*, of *Beroaldus* in *Greek*, of *Calvin* and *Beza* in Divinity, and of some other Professors in that University; (which was newly then erected) besides my domestical Teachers, in the House of *Philibertus Saracenus* a famous Physician in that City, with whom I was boarded: where *Robertus Constantinus* that made the *Greek Lexicon*, read *Homer* unto me. Thus I remained there two Years and

more, until such time as our Nation was advertised of the Death of Queen *Mary*, and Succession of *Elizabeth*, with the Change of Religion; which caused my Father to hasten into *England*: Where he came with my Mother, and with all their Family, within the first of the *Queen*, and settled their Dwelling in the City of *London*. It was not long after, that I was sent away from thence to the *University of Oxon*, recommended to the Teaching and Tuition of Dr. *Humphrey*, who was shortly after chosen the chief Reader in Divinity, and President of *Magdalen-College*. There I followed my Studies, till I took the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, which was in the

Year 1563, within which Year I was also chosen Probationer of *Merton-College*, and the next year ensuing admitted Fellow. Afterwards, to wit, in the Year 1565, by special Perswasion of some of my Fellows, and for my private Exercise, I undertook the publick reading of a *Greek Lecture*, in the same College-Hall, without requiring, or expecting any Stipend for it. Nevertheless, it pleased the Fellowship, of their own Accord, to allow me soon after four Marks by the Year, and ever since to continue that Lecture to the College. In the Year of our Lord 1566, I proceeded Master of Arts; and read for that Year in the *School-Streets*, Natural Phi-

losophy: After which time, within less than three Years space, I was won by intreaty of my best affected Friends, to stand for the Proctorship, to which I and my Colleague Mr. *Bearblock* of *Exeter*-College were quietly Elected in the Year 1569, without any Competition, or Countersuit of any other. After this for a long time, I supplied the Place of the University-Orator, and bestowed my time in the Study of sundry Faculties, without any Inclination to profess any one above the rest; insomuch as at last, I waxed desirous to Travel beyond the Seas, for attaining to the Knowledge of some special Modern Tongues, and for the Increase of my Ex-

perience in the Managing of Affairs: being wholly then ad-dicted to employ my self, and all my Cares, in the publick Ser-vice of the State. My Resolution fully taken, I departed out of *England, Anno 1576*, and con-tinued very near four Years abroad: and that in sundry Parts of *Italy, France and Germany*. A good while after my return, to wit, in the Year 1585, I was em-ployed by the *Queen*, to *Freder-ick*, Father to the present King of *Denmark*, to *Julius Duke of Brunswick*, to *William Land-grave of Hesse*, and other *Ger-man* Princes. The effect of my Message was, to draw them to joyn their Forces with hers, for giving Assistance to the King

of *Navarre*, now *Henry the IVth of France*. My next Imployment was to *Henry the Third* at such time as he was forced by the Duke of *Guise* to fly out of *Paris*: Which I performed in such sort as I had in Charge, with extroardinary Secrecy, not being accompanied with any one Servant, ( for so I was commanded ) nor with any other Letters, than such as were written with the Queen's own Hand to the King, and some selected Persons about Him. The effect of that Message it is fit I should conceal, but it tended greatly to the Advantage, not only of the King, but of all the Protestants in *France*, and to the Duke's apparent overthrow; which also followed soon

upon it. It so befel after this, in the Year Eighty Eight, that for the better Conduct of her *Highness's* Affairs in the *Provinces United*, I was thought a fit Person to reside in those Parts, and was sent thereupon to the *Hague* in *Holland*; where according to the Contract that had formerly past between her *Highness* and the *States*, I was admitted for one of their Counsel of State, takeing Place in their Assemblies next to Count *Maurice*, and yielding my Suffrage in all that was proposed: During all that time, what Approbation was given of my painful Endeavours by the *Queen*, Lords in *England*, by the *States* of the Country there, and by all the *English* Soldiery,

I refer it to be notified by some other's Relation; Sith it was not unknown to any of any Calling, that then were acquainted with the State of that Government. For at my first coming thither, the People of that Country stood in dangerous Terms of discontentment; partly for some Courses that were held in *England*, as they thought to their singular Prejudice, but most of all in respect of the insolent Demeanour of some of her *Highness's* Ministers, which only respected their private Emolument; little weighing in their Dealing, what the *Queen* had contracted with the *States* of the Country: Whereupon was conceived a mighty Fear on every side, that both a

present Dissolution of the Covenant would ensue, and a downright Breach of Amity, between us and them. Now what means I set afoot for redress of these Perils, and by what Degrees the state of things was reduced into order, it would require a long Treatise to report it exactly. But this I may aver with Modesty and Truth, and the Country did always acknowledge it with Gratitude, that had I not of my self without any Direction from my Superiours, proceeded in my Charge with extreme Circumspection, as well in all my Speeches and Proposals to the *States*, as in the Tenour of my Letters, that I writ into *England*, some sudden Alarm had

been given, to the utter Subversion, and Ruin of the State of those *Provinces*: Which in process of time, must needs have wrought in all Probability, the self same effect in the State of this Realm. Of this my Diligence and Care in the managing of my Business, there was, as I have signified, very special Notice taken by the *Queen*, and State at Home, for which I received from her Majesty, many comfortable Letters of her gracious Acceptance: As withall from that time forward, I did never almost receive any Sett Instructions, how to govern my Proceedings in her Majesty's Occasions: but the Carriage in a manner of all her Affairs, was left to me and my

Discretion. Through this my long Absence out of *England*, which wanted very little of five whole Years, my private Estate did greatly require my speedy Return; which when I had obtained by Intercession of Friends, and a tedious Suit, I could enjoy but a while, being shortly after enjoyned to repair to the *Hague* again. Nevertheless, upon a certain occasion to deliver unto her some secret Overtures, and of performing thereupon an extro-ordinary Service, I came again Home, within less than a twelve Month; and I was no sooner come, but her *Highness* embracing the Fruit of my Discoveries, I was presently commanded to return to the *States*, with Charge to

pursue those Affairs to Performance, which I had secretly proposed; and according to the Project which I had conceived and imparted unto her, all things were concluded, and brought to that Issue, that was instantly desired: Whereupon I procured my last Revocation. Now here I cannot chuse, in making Report of the principal Accidents, that have befallen unto me in the Course of my Life, but record among the rest, that from the very first day, I had no man more to Friend, among the Lords of the Council, than was the Lord Treasurer *Burleigh*; for when occasion had been offered of declaring his Conceit, as touching my Service, he would

always tell the *Queen*, ( which I received from her self, and some other Ear-Witnesses ) that there was not any Man in *England*, so meet as myself, to undergo the Office of the Secretary: And since, his Son the present Lord Treasurer hath signified unto me in private Conference, that when his Father first intended to advance him to that Place, his purpose was withal to make me his Colleague. But the Case stood thus in my behalf: Before such time as I returned from the *Provinces United*, which was in the Year 1597, and likewise after my return, The Earl of *Essex* did use me so kindly both by Letters and Messages, and other great Tokens of his inward

Favour to me, that although I had no meaning, but to settle in my Mind my chiefest Dependance upon the Lord *Burleigh*, as one that I reputed to be both the best able, and therewithal the most willing to work my Advancement with the *Queen*; Yet I know not how the Earl, who sought by all Devices to divert her Love and Liking both from the Father and the Son, (but from the Son in special) to withdraw my Affection from the One, and the Other, and to win me altogether to depend upon himself, did so often take occasion to entertain the *Queen*, with some prodigal Speeches of my Sufficiency for a Secretary, which were ever accompanied

with Words of Disgrace against the present Lord Treasurer, as neither She her self, ( of whose Favour before I was thoroughly assured ) took any great Pleasure to prefer me the sooner; ( for she hated his Ambition, and would give little Countenance to any of his Followers ) and both the Lord *Burleigh*, and his Son waxed jealous of my Courses, as if underhand I had been induced by the Cunning and Kindness of the Earl of *Essex*, to oppose my self against their Dealings. And though in very Truth, they had no solid Ground at all, of the least Alteration in my Disposition towards either of them both ( for I did greatly respect their Per-

sons and Places, with a settled Resolution to do them any Service, as also in my Heart I detested to be of any Faction whatsoever) yet the now Lord Treasurer, upon occasion of some talk, that I have since had with him, of the Earl and his Actions, hath freely confessed of his own accord to me, that his daily Provocations were so bitter and sharp against him, and his Comparisons so odious, when he put us in a Ballance, as he thought thereupon, he had very great reason to use his best means, to put any Man out of Love of raising his Fortune, whom the Earl with such Violence, to his extreme Prejudice, had endeavoured to dignifie.

And this, as he affirmed, was all the Motive he had, to set himself against me, in whatsoever might redound to the bettering my State, or encreasing my Credit, and countenance with the *Queen*: When I had thoroughly now bethought me first in the Earl, of the slender Hold-fast he had in the *Queen*; of an endless Opposition of the chiefest of our Statesmen, like still to wait upon him; of his perilous, and feeble, and uncertain Advice, as well in his own, as in all the Causes of his Friends; and when moreover, for my self I had fully considered, how very untowardly these two Counsellors were affected unto me, (upon whom before in Cogita-

tion I had framed all the Fabric of my Future Prosperity ) how ill it did concur with my natural Disposition, to become, or to be counted either a Stickler or Partaker in any publick Faction; how well I was able by God's good Blessing to live of my self, If I could be content with a competent Livelihood; how short a time of farther Life, I was then to expect by the common Course of Nature; when I had, I say, in this manner represented to my Thoughts my particular Estate, together with the Earl's; I resolved thereupon to possess my Soul in Peace, all the Residue of my Days; to take my full farewell of State-Imployments ; to satisfie

my Mind with that Mediocrity of worldly living, that I had of mine own; and so to retire me from the Court, which was the Epilogue, and End of all my Actions, and Endeavours of any important Note, till I came to the Age of Sixty Three. Now although after this, by her Majesty's Directions, I was often called to the Court, by the now Lord Treasurer, then Secretary, and required by him, as also divers times since, by order from the King, to serve as Ambassador in *France*, to go a Commissioner from his *Highness*, for concluding the Truce between *Spain* and the *Provinces*, and to negotiate in other very honourable Employments, yet I would

not be removed from my former final Resolution ; insomuch as at length to reduce me the sooner to return to the Court, I had an offer made me by the present Lord Treasurer ( for in process of time he saw, as he himself was pleased to tell me more than once, that all my dealing was upright, fair, and direct ) that in case I my self were willing unto it, he would make me his Associate in the Secretary's Office : And to the Intent I might believe that he intended it *bona fide*, he would get me out of hand to be sworn of the Council. And for the better enabling of my State, to maintain such a Dignity, whatsoever I would ask, that might be fit for him to

deal in, and for me to enjoy, he would presently solicit the King to give it Passage. All which Perswasions notwithstanding, albeit I was often assaulted by him, in regard of my Years, and for that I felt my self subje&t to many Indispositions, besides some other private Reasons, which I reserve unto my self, I have continued still at home, my retired course of Life, which is now methinks to me, as the greatest Preferment that the State can afford. Only this, I must truly confess of my self, that though I did never yet repent me of those, and some other my often refusals of Honourable Offers, in respect of enriching my private Estate; yet somewhat

more of late, I have blamed myself and my Nicety that way, for the love that I bear to my Reverend Mother the *University of Oxon*, and to the Advancement of her Good, by such kind of means, as I have since undertaken. For thus I fell to Discourse, and debate in my Mind, That altho' I might find it fittest for me, to keep out of the Throng of Court Contentions, and address my Thoughts and Deeds to such Ends altogether, as I my self could best affect; yet withal I was to think, that my Duty towards God, the Expectation of the World, and my natural Inclination, and very Morality did require, that I should not wholly so hide those little

Abilities that I had, but that in some measure, in one kind or other, I should do the true part of a profitable Member of the State; whereupon examining exactly for the rest of my Life, what course I might take, and having sought (as I thought) all the ways to the Wood, to select the most proper, I concluded at the last, to set up my Staff at the Library-Door in Oxon; being thoroughly perswaded, that in my Solitude, and Surcease from the Common-Wealth Affairs, I could not busy my self to better purpose, than by reducing that Place (which then in every Part lay ruined and wast) to the publick use of Students. For the effecting whereof, I found my self

furnished in a competent Proportion, of such four kinds of Aids, as unless I had them all, there was no hope of good Success: For Without some kind of Knowledge, as well in the Learned and Modern Tongues, as in sundry other sorts of scholastical Literature, without some Purse-ability to go through with the Charge, without great store of Honourable Friends, to further the Design, and without special good Leisure to follow such a Work, it could but have proved a vain Attempt and inconsiderate. But how well I have sped in all my Endeavours, and how full Provision I have made for the Benefit and Ease of all Frequenters of the *Library*, that

which I have already performed in Sight, that which besides I have given for the Maintenance of it, and that which hereafter I purpose to add, by way of Enlargement of that Place, (for the Project is cast, and whether I live or die, it shall be, God willing, put in full Execution) will testify so truly and abundantly for me, as I need not be the Publisher of the Dignity and Worth of mine own Institution.

*Written with mine own Hand,  
Anno 1609. December 11th.*

*T. B.*



SIR THOMAS BODLEY'S STATUTES



SIR THOMAS BODLEY'S  
FIRST DRAUGHT OF THE  
STATUTES  
OF THE PUBLICK LIBRARY  
AT OXON

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINAL  
COPY, WRITTEN BY HIS OWN HAND,  
AND REPOSITED IN THE ARCHIVES  
OF THE SAID LIBRARY

FORASMUCH as Experience hath made it apparent in the course of Men's Actions, that no publick Institution nor Foundation whatsoever, wherein a Multitude hath Interest, and where Continuance is required, can produce those good Effects, for which the same was first intended, except the dissolute Demeanours of ill affected Per-

sons be judiciously restrained, by force of Statutes and Provisoēs to encounter their Disorders; it is thought in that regard a most necessary Care, to prevent by all good means, what hereafter may befall to the abusing, impairing, or perhaps ( which God forbid ) to the utter subverting of our Store of Books; which may undoubtedly prove in tract of time, ( if God of his Goodness shall, according to the project, prosper our Proceedings ) the most absolute and sufficient, for the Advancement of Learning, that hath been hitherto renowned, by any extant Record, in any Part of *Europe*: We therefore the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and doctors, together with the Proctors,



and Masters, Regents, and non- Regents of the Great Convocation of the University of *oxon*, upon often Consultation and Conference had with Sir. *Tho. Bodley, &c.* Do Ordain and Decree with a solemn Concurrence of all our Voices, and Consents, that according to the Trust which he hath reposed in our careful Government of the Library, and in our frugal Disposition of the Profits of that Land, which he hath given and assigned to the Maintenance thereof, these our Orders, Acts, and Constitutions, shall be by all sorts of Students, to whom they may appertain, most Religiously kept and observed for ever.

Above all things, that may con-

cern the Preservation of this our publick Place of Study, or the Benefit, Use, and Ease of those that shall frequent it, it is deemed expedient, that some one be deputed to the Custody of it, that is noted and known for a diligent Student, and in all his Conversation to be Trusty, Active, and Discreet; a Graduat also, and a Linguist, not encumbered with Marriage, nor with a Benefice of Cure. For it cannot stand with Piety, that such a Charge should admit the continual Society of other publick Employments; and Marriage is too full of Domestical Impeachments, to afford him so much time from his private Affairs, as almost every Day's necessity of his private Presence

will require.

The Course that must be held, in the Election and Admission of a Keeper to his Office, and the manner of delivering the Library-Keys into his Hands, shall be always like to that, which is yearly put in Practice in the Choice of the Proctors. But before the Electors be admitted to come to give their Voices, they shall all take their Oaths in this kind of Form.

I, A. B. do Promise and Swear, by the Faith and Trust that I owe to Almighty God, that in This Election towards a fit and worthy keeper, for the Publick Library of this University, I have no purpose, to confer my Suffrage, in

hope of Reward, or in regard, of any Promise, or at the Instance and Intreaty, direct or indirect of any Person, or Persons of what Quality soever: But that among them all that are known or supposed to affect this Charge, I will nominate and choose some such Graduat unto it, as in setting apart all kind of corrupt and partial Inducement, I shall and do repute, in the greatest Sincerity of my Judgment and Conscience, to be the meetest and best qualified Person, to advance with his Sufficiency the Dignity and Honour of this University, and the Publick Good, and Benefit of the Students in the Library.

The Election thus performed,

when the Party then elected shall come to be admitted, he shall swear to this Effect:

All and every of the Statutes, Constitutions, and Decrees, either made already, or hereafter to be made that may in any wise concern the Duty of the Keeper, and good Estate of the Library, I will observe in mine own Person, and to the uttermost of my Power, will cause to be observed by all other Persons, to whom the same may belong, as I hope to be saved, by God's infinite Mercy, thro' the Merits of Christ Jesus, revealed unto me, by his Holy Evangelists.

It is further understood, that the ✓

Library Keeper shall never be enforced to relinquish his Office, but with his own free Assent and good-liking; unless upon Desert, for some heinous Offence, or apparent Insufficiency, he shall be adjudged unworthy to be continued in his Charge. And then in that Case, or by whatsoever means his Place becometh void, be it by his Death, or Resignation, or other incident Occasion, the Vice-Chancellor or his Deputy, within three Days next ensuing, shall give Orders for the Summons of a solemn Convocation, and there in that sort, as we have formerly prescribed, and is usually observed in the Election of the Proctors, proceed to make Choice of another to succeed.

And now to the end it may be known, what doth chiefly belong to his Function and Charge, it is first determined and decreed, That he shall take the care of keeping, and likewise of continuing the great Register-Book, which is chained to the Desk, at the upper broad Window of the Library: In which there are to be inrolled, and so from time to time recorded, as their Numbers shall augment, the particular Names and Gifts of as many, as have conferred either Books, or Mony, or other things of Worth for the Benefit and Good of Students in the Library. Wherein also the Munificence, not only of great and honourable Personages, but of others of mean and vulgar

Callings must be respectively remembred. For in a case of shewing Gratitude, it is meet in all Congruity, that no man be defrauded of that measure of Thanks, that is due unto his Bounty: As commonly few are so careless of a publick good Opinion, but where they know they have deserved, they would be noted for desert. And in that respect we do resolve, that the Keeper shall procure that Book to be written, with a special, fair, and pleasing Hand; and withall to be exposed, where it may be still in sight, for every Man to view, as an eminent and endless Token of our thankful Acceptation of whatsoever hath been given; and as an excellent In-

du cement, for Posterity to imitate these former good Examples.

An other chief Point of the Keeper's Charge, is to range all his Books, as well of the bigger as lesser fold, according to their Faculties; to assign to every Faculty their Catalogues and Tables; and to dispose of every Table the Authors therein named, according to the Alphabet: Where besides the Author's Name, and the Title of his Work, he must be mindful to express, in what kind of Volume the same was Printed, with a Note of the Place, and Year of that Edition. For it so fareth often with a Number of Students, that the Knowledge of some one of these petty Particulars, may turn them

in their Studies to some singular Advantage. Again, whensoever it comes to pass, that of Gift any Gratuity to the University, any Book or Books, Printed, or Manuscripts, or other Writings of Moment, are addressed to the Keeper, to be put among the Rest of his Library-Store; he shall take no longer Respite to see the same effected, than until he may be able, to restore the Defects of the Books and Things delivered; and to trim every Volume, that is not in good Plight, with fit Reparations for Use and Continuance: Whereto the Vice-Chancellor for the time being (whom we do depute, as hereafter shall appear, the Receiver and Guardian of the Library

Rents) shall see him furnished with Mony, and other necessary means, to the full of his Occasions: Whereof he must render a particular Account unto the Vice-Chancellor, to the end the same may be produced as Occasion shall be offered, upon the Vice-Chancellor's own Account: But if it be a Benevolence that doth wholly consist of Ready Mony given, and is put into his Hands to be spent upon Books at his Discretion and Election; he shall fulfil, without Delay, the Desire of him that is the Giver, if there be at that time any present Possibility to procure so many Books, as may suffice for so much Mony: But if they cannot be had upon the suddain, he shall

move the Vice-Chancellor then being, to have the Money reserved, with the Library Revenue, till Books may be gotten for it; for which he must lay hold upon the soonest Opportunity, and use his uttermost Husbandry in buying, and Judgment in choosing good Authors and Prints, neglecting no Endeavour, that may make for Discharge of his Duty and Trust, and for the Giver's Contentation, to whom he shall first present in a list the Inscriptions and Prices of every single Book, before he doth possess the Library of his Gift; and then ingross the same again (without any mention of their Prices) upon the standing Register of Benefactors.

But now, for as much as this Magazine of Books, was founded altogether for the Publick and Perpetual Commodity of Students, for which it were meet in many Respects, that they should all be made acquainted, with the Days and the Hours, in which they may be still assured, to find the Keeper in that Place; it is thus enacted and decreed, that he shall make no Exemption of any whole Day in all the Year, but only of the Sabbath, the Nativity of our Saviour, the day of Electing the Proctors, and when the Library shall be visited: Nor yet of any half Days, saving only of the Fore-noons, upon the usual Feasts, and days of Solemn Prayers; or of Sermons *ad*

*Clerum*; and of the After-noons at all such times, as Publick Disputations are used in Divinity. Nevertheless, it may so happen eft-soons, through a multitude of urgent, and not yet thought upon Occasions, that it will be thought behoveful by the Chief Convocation, to admit the like Cessation, at some other times unmentioned: Which then the Keeper ought to publish, by fixing a Schedule on the Door, that is at the Entrance of the School of Divinity. So that setting aside those former Exceptions, we do Ordain and Enjoyn, that the Keeper himself in Person ( not letted with Sickness, or other lawful impediment hereafter expressed ) shall come continually to the opening

of the Library Doors, and both remain within himself, and give access unto others, in the Morning, from Eight of the Clock to Eleven; and then after Dinner from Two to Five. Which is to be continued from Easter, to the Feast of *St. Michael*: But for the rest of the Year, from One to Four in the After-noon. At these prescribed Hours he shall also cause to be rung the Warning-Bell of his Ingress and Egress, that Men may shun the Dis-commodities of repairing thither oversoon, or abiding there too long, which the Difference of Clocks may occasion very often, to the Prejudice and Hindrance of himself as well as others.

Be it always here provided, That

for the greater security of the timber Works and Books, no Frequenter of that Place, Graduat or other, nor the Keeper himself, or any Deputy for him, upon any Pretext or Colour, shall enter there by Night, with a Torch, Link, Lamp, Candle, or other kind of Fire-light, upon pain of Deprivation from his Office forever: Nor shall absent himself from thence, but in Cases approved ( which shall be specified hereafter ) for the space of one Day, or half-day, or any of those Hours, that have bin formerly mentioned, upon pain of forfeiting twenty Shillings, for every time of his Absence, to be defalked from his Salary, and converted to the encreasing of the

## Books of the Library.

Moreover, as it may be lawful and free for all comers in ( being qualified in such sort, as we shall after declare ) to peruse any Volumes, that are chained to the Desks, in the Body of the Library, not forgetting to fasten their Clasps and Strings, to untangle their Chains, and to leave as they found the Books in their Places; ( whereas otherwise for their Negligence, they shall be punished by the Purse, at the Will and Arbitriment of the Vice-Chancellor ) so for the smaller sized Volumes, in Quarto and Octavo, and such as are within the Grates, and under the Custody of the Keeper alone, that they may not be wasted with

much handling and tossing ( being Books of special Worth, for their Antiquity or Rarity, Costliness, or Beauty, or other note of prime Account ) it shall be a part of the Keeper's Duty, when any Man is desirous to use any of these kinds, to deliver them out by Hand, and by Tale ; and with Condition, that they shall be studied there in Sight, and after presently restored, before the Person goe from thence, upon pain of Satisfaction to the double Value of every Book detained ; and ( if so be it shall prove a wilful Fact ) perpetual Expulsion out of the Library.

Howbeit, because it is meet, we should afford some Leisure to the Keeper, for his private Study

and Contemplation, whereof we should make but a slender Allowance, in case he shall be forced to serve the Turns of every one, as oft as they require to have the use of such Books; it hath been therefore thought expedient, to entertain a daily Minister, which must be evermore at hand, to aid and assist him, and to attend his Directions in all Occasions in the Library; Who must be sworn to be faithful, and for his Skill must be sufficient to seek out, and distribute any Books that are demanded; of which the Keeper himself, or (when he shall be absent) his lawful Deputy shall give out with his own Hands those within the Grates, and but Six at a time of one sort or other: Which

is precisely all the stint, whereto the Keeper shall be subject by our Constitutions; unless by himself he will be won to gratify some Persons by exceeding that Number: Wherein we do require, that he would carry himself uprightly, and content every Student with due respect to his Degree.

And sith the sundry Examples of former Ages, as well in this University, as in other Places of the Realm, have taught us over-often, that the frequent Loan of Books, hath bin a principal Occasion of the Ruin and Destruction of many famous Libraries; It is therefore ordered and decreed to be observed as a Statute of irrevocable Force, that for no Re-

gard, Pretence, or Cause, there shall at any time, any Volume, either of these that are chained, or of others unchained, be given or lent, to any Person or Persons, of whatsoever State or Calling, upon any kind of Caution, or offer of Security, for his faithful Restitution; and that no such Book or Volume shall at any time, by any whatsoever, be carried forth of the Library, for any longer space, or other uses, and Purposes, than, if need so require, to be sold away for altogether, as being superfluous or unprofitable; or changed for some other of a better Edition; or being over-worn to be new bound again, and immediately returned, from whence it was removed. For the

Execution whereof in every Particular, there shall no Man intermeddle, but the Keeper himself alone, who is also to proceed with the Knowledge, Liking, and Direction of those Publick Overseers, whose Authority we will notify in other Statutes ensuing.

Furthermore, considering that the Keeper may sometimes, upon Urgence of Business, or Indisposition of Body (whereof he must affirm the Truth upon his Oath, being moved thereunto) desire a Dispensation for his personal Absence from his Charge, the Vice-Chancellor or his Substitute shall have absolute Power, in every such Occasion, to descend to his Request, for the space of Seven Days every Quar-

ter, to be taken either jointly, or at several times, as his need shall enforce him; with this Restriction notwithstanding, that still his Office be supplied by some learned, able Graduat, of whose Fidelity and Truth, there was never any other, but a publick good Report. Or if the Vice-Chancellor think it fit, (for the Choice of every Substitute, must wholly stand with his, or his Deputy's Good-Liking) he shall take a corporal Oath, to the same or like Effect, as the Keeper did himself, at the time of his Admission. But if so be the Keeper's Case be adjudged so favourable, as he may challenge in Reason, a further Enlargement of his Licence, than is formerly ex-

pressed ; then ought the same to be accorded, by way of common Suffrage, in one of the Congregations ; least otherwise in Continuance, the Facility of treating with one Man alone, should draw abuse unto it, of procuring Leave for Longer Absence, than shall be fitting, for the Regiment, and good Estate of such Charge.

These Occasions throughly weighed of the Keeper's excessive and incessant Pains about his Function, although they offer unto him more effectual Opportunities, for the Advancement of his Knowledge, together with his Credit, than to any other Student in the University ; ( which may give him, in some sort, Contention for his Pains ) for the ina-



bling notwithstanding of his private Estate, which will yield him better Leisure, for the managing and following the Affairs of his Office, we do order and ordain, that besides the annual Stipend of twenty Nobles, which was the ancient Donation of King *Henry the IVth*, and is to issue forth of the University-treasure through the Hands of the Proctors, he shall enjoy that further Sum of Three and Thirty Pounds Six Shillings and Eight Pence, which is expressed in that Book, by which our late Lands were conveyed unto us, and is to be answered half-yearly by equal Portions; to wit, at the Feasts of St. *Michael* the Arch-Angel, and the Annunciation of the Blessed

Virgin *Mary*, or within three and thirty Days after: And the same to be extracted out of the Library-Revenue by the present Vice-Chancellor: which is also our Direction for the Payment of ten Pounds to the Keeper's Assistant; and of four Pounds besides to some honest poor Scholar, or Servant of the Keeper, whose weekly Charge and Care must be, whensoever the Keeper shall call upon him, to wipe, sweep, and keep clean all the Library-Books, Tables, Shelves, Seats, Closets, Windows, and whatsoever else is subject to the Annoyance of Dust. Wherewithal we understand, That the Choice of these inferior Ministers, shall be committed to the

Keeper's Discretion; the Payment of theirs and all other Stipends, unto the Vice-Chancellor's Care: And their removal from their Places, if so be they shall deserve it, to the Library-Overseers, whose Authority we shall specify in the Statutes following.

We have held it moreover a very needful Caution, for the safer Custody of the aforesaid Revenue, and of all other Sums of Mony, that may hereafter of Benevolence be conferred on the Library, That within the space of Three Days after any Payment made, the same shall be transported to the Place, where the University Rents are kept, and be locked up there in the

Iron-Chest provided purposely for it, under three different Locks, with double Keys to every Lock ; which are always to remain with the present Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, to be rendred up with the rest of their Keys, at the several times of their Entrance to their Offices. Wherein notwithstanding, that Implyoment of the Proctors shall extend it self no further, than to come with their Keys, when they shall be required by the Vice-Chancellor, to open the Chest; and always to be present, when any Mony is brought in, or extracted by him; whereof the Sum is then and there to be registred with the Vice-Chancellor's own Hand, upon some leiger Book lying in

the same Chest, or in some other like Place, to be afterward subscribed by the Proctors as Eye-witnesses of it: For so it will appear, how all Expences and Receipts do answer each other, at the time of the Audit of the Chest-Account.

Now because it is apparent, that Nothing makes more for the Ease of the Keeper, the Quietness of the Students, the Security of the Books, and the Honour and Dignity of the University, than that we should proceed with some choice Limitation, in the Admission of such Persons, as are to study in the Library; we do utterly reject the Opinion of those, that would have no Exception to no Man's Access: For

that a Graunt of so much Scope, would not minister Occasion of daily pestering all the Room, with their gazing; and babling, and trampling up and down, may disturb out of Measure the Endeavours of those that are studious. And therefore not to give way to so great an Inconvenience, we do thus determine and decree; That no Man shall enjoy the Freedom there of Study, but only Doctors and Licentiats of the Three Faculties, Batchelors of Divinity, Masters of Arts, Batchelors of Physick, and Law, Batchelors of Arts of two Years standing, and all other Batchelors; if they come thither in their Habits and Hoods, and there demean themselves with

Reverence, in giving Place to their Superiors, and in seemly Performance of all other Duties. Among these in like manner for special Respect, we do reckon the Sons of the Lords of the Parliament, ( for of the Lords themselves there may be no question ) and as many besides of all Degrees, as of their zealous Affection to all kind of good Literature, have enriched that store-House with their bountiful Gifts: For it might be well reputed a Point of great Ungratitude, if we should not permit such worthy Contributors, to tast of the Fruit of their own Beneficence. Nevertheless, for the tender Care that must be taken, of the endless Preservation of such

a Cabinet of the Muses, our Intention is this, That before any Graduat formerly mentioned, or any other Person of note and desert, shall begin to put in Practice his Liberty of Entrance, he shall address himself first unto the Vice-Chancellor or his Substitute, and there in the Presence of the Keeper, take the Oath of Fidelity to the Library, which we appoint to be ministred in Manner and Form as followeth.

You shall Promise and Swear in the Presence of Almighty God, That whensoever you shall repair to the Publick Library of this University, you will conform your self to study with Modesty and Silence; and use, both the

Books, and everything else appertaining to their Furniture, with a careful Respect to their longest Conservation: And that neither your self in Person, nor any other whatsoever, by your Procurement or Privity, shall either openly or underhand, by way of embezling, changing, razing, defacing, tearing, cutting, noting, interlining, or by voluntary corrupting, blotting, blurring, or any other manner of mangling or misusing, any one or more of the said Books, either wholly or in part, make any Alteration: But shall hinder and impeach, as much as lieth in you, all and every such Offender or Offenders, by detecting their Demeanour unto the Vice-Chan-

cellor, or to his Deputy then in place, within the next Three Days after it shall come to your Knowledge: so help you God by Christ's Merits, according to the Doctrine of his Holy Evangelists.



Also any other Person, for the Furtherance of his Study in whatsoever Science, although he should be no Contributer, may at any time obtain the aforesaid Freedom of recourse, the same being craved as a Grace in the Congregation-House, and the Oath taken after, before his Admittance. But if any Man presume to intrude himself into that place, without special Permission, before he hath been sworn,

except he come accompanied with one that is sworn, and still remain with him in sight, ( who is then upon his Oath, to stand as a Pledge for the other's good Behaviour ) besides his corporal Imprisonment for one whole Day, he shall according to the nature of such his Presumption, forfeit so much Mony as shall be awarded by the Vice-Chancellor or his Deputy: Of which the one Moity shall goe to the Keeper, ( as of all other pecuniary Forfeitures ) and the other to the Use and Benefit of the Library. But if it shall happen in time to come, ( whereof we are in good hope we shall never see Example ) That any Graduat or other, shall be clearly convicted

to have dismembred, or secretly purloined and conveyed away any Books, Tract or Tracts, Leaf or Leaves of any Volume in the Library; Or to have made any Change in any Line or Lines, Word or Words, Syllable or Letter, in any Author whatsoever; Or shall have known the like offence committed by some other, and not discovered the same, within Three Days after his Notice of it, he shall be publickly disgraded being a Graduat, in the next Congregation of the Regent Masters, and whether he be a Graduat or otherwise, he shall be excluded out of Hand, from taking any Benefit, not only of the Library, but of any further Study, or



Aboard and Continuance in the University. For which the Vice-Chancellor or his Substitute, shall pronounce the Sentence of his Banishment in the open Congregation, and keep a permanent Record, both of the Kind and Quality, of that Delinquent's Perjury, and of the exemplary Punishment inflicted upon it.

And here, although we presuppose, that the Library-Keeper in regard of his liberal Education, his Affection unto Learning, his Credit among Clerks, and his Oath and Duty to the University, will be vigilant and studious in the highest Degree, to preserve a Jewel of such Price, committed to his Trust; Yet because in the Usage of other like

Foundations, we have seen many Precedents of notorious Abuses, even in those that by profession, and in the Opinion of the world, have born the Name and Reputation of Men of excellent Integrity, we have therefore provided, as near as we are able by Discourse and Reach of Reason, to meet with all Omissions and retchless Carriages of the Keeper, by selecting to the Number of eight principal Graduats, to be perpetual Overseers and Visitors of the Library: To wit the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, or their Deputies, the three Doctors of the Chair, and the King's two Readers of the *Hebrew* and *Greek* Lectures; and unto these, or to the major Part of these, it

shall appertain every Year, the eight of *November*, (unless it be a Sabbath Day, which Munday following shall supply) it being the Day that was solemnised, with our first free entrance into the Library, to visit and survey the State thereof in every Point; for which every Overseer the Eve before, must be personally cited, by some Beadle sent of purpose, from the Vice-Chancellor or his Deputy, to repair thither early the morning following; where the Doors being shut, that they may not be by others interrupted in their Business, and the Keeper secluded, until he shall be called, after a due perusal of these Statutes and Orders, they shall inquire of his

Diligence, In writing the Register of Contributors, and the Alphabetical Tables affixed to the Standerds and Heads of every Desk: In digesting the Authors in their proper Partitions, as the Tables give Direction: In delivering those by hand, that are kept under Locks, and wholly left to his Custody: In speedy bringing in, and present placing of such Books, as shall from time to time be given: In observing his Hours of opening, and shutting, and tarrying in the Library: In excluding all kind of Persons, that are no Freemen of that Place; and In providing for the Books and Buildings, with all the Furniture of the Room, that it may be always freed from

Dust and uncleanness: and That it goe not to decay, by Reason of Wind and Rain coming in at the Casements, or otherwise for want of timely Reparations. For in any of these Points, and in many more Particulars pertaining to his Function, whatsoever is omitted, or misgoverned by the Keeper, the Vice-Chancellor or his Deputy, with the Assent and Assistance of the other Overseers, may admonish, reprove, or reform him for it, by putting in Execution, whatsoever is contained in our present Constitutions: unless the quality of his Crime shall deserve Deprivation: Which is evermore a Punishment, to be publickly practised, by the Censure and

Sentence of that Convocation, by which he was elected.

Sith besides it is usual, in the best contrived Orders of all Common-Wealths, to see a small Toleration of Abuses at first, although they be but seldom suffered, and that by way of Conivance, to engender soon after an irreparable Mischief, to the total Dissolution of the principal Institution; we do therefore Authorise the fore-elected Overseers, and withal we do request and entreat them very earnestly, to attend without fail this principal Good Work of visiting the Library: Wherein according to the Tenour of the Statutes before, they may not only proceed, to examine by Points, how well

the Keeper hath performed the Duties of his Charge, but must direct him besides in his doubtful Proposals, if any Statute be defective, or if any new Accident require a new Proviso, and in every other needful Matter: Whereof their joint Information to the publick Assembly of the Regents and non-Regents, must always procure a speedy-Redress.

They shall, furthermore, in writting set down and appoint (if every one of them agree and condescend thereunto, it being of more Importance, than that it should be overweighed by Plurality of Voices) some Books to be Exchanged for better Editions, and some in like sort to

be clean made away, as being wholly superfluous, or of no Estimation: And some others to be bought with Mony contributed, or with that which is in Stock in the Iron Chest; whereof the Sum to be expended, must be carefully limited, thereafter as the Store may conveniently spare it: Which then the present Vice Chancellor is to pay unto the Keeper, who shall always be tied by virtue of his Oath, to bestow the same as soon as may be, and as they shall enjoin him, or (if they leave him to his Liberty) as he himself shall see Occasion; so that all be disbursed to the best Advantage of the Library, and a faithful reckoning yielded of it, in their next Visitation.

And though it be so, as we are perswaded, that Men of choice Degree, and Learning in this University, such as we have selected, to oversee these Affairs, will ( without expecting for it any Jot of Reward ) of their meer and hearty Zeal to the Publick Benefit of Students, esteem so small a time, as may serve for that Purpose, to be fruitfully bestowed, we do appoint notwithstanding for Honour's Sake, and of a reverent Respect to their Persons and Professions, that at every Visitation, they shall have the same Day for their Dinner or Supper an Allotment of Forty Shillings, to be taken of the Revenue of the Library-Chest, and spent in what Place the vice-

Chancellor shall appoint within the University; to whose Care and Provision it shall also belong, to cause certain Gloves to be presented by a Beadle, at the time of their Refection, as Memorials and Tokens of the University's Acceptance of their Service that Day. Among which we do allow seven Pairs of Ten Shillings the Pair, to the five Professors of the King's Lectures, and the two Proctors; with one Pair of five Shillings to the Beadle then serving; besides Forty Shillings in Mony to each of the Proctors, in Consideration of their Custody of their Keys to the Chest; and to the Vice-Chancellor one Pair of Gloves of Twenty Shillings Price, or two

Pairs of Ten Shillings the Pair, with Twenty Nobles in Mony in regard of his Cumbers, in receiv- ing and disbursing the Monies of the Library.

Moreover for avoiding Confusion, which will undoubtedly follow the Plurality of Accountants, and for a sound and settled Course, to be constantly continued, first in keeping the Rents and Incomes of the Library; ( which are the principal Props, to uphold it for ever in a flourishing Stay ) and then in defraying both those afore declared, and all other Charges, as their incident Occasions of either buying, binding, chaining, clasping, or stringing of Books, or the need- ful repairing of such Decays and

Imperfections, as the Ornament and Works of the inward Structure of the Library, may at any time require; It is intended by us, that the Vice-Chancellor alone and no other, ( except it be so, that by his own, or by the Visitor's Ordination, the Keeper shall be charged with some special Disbursment) may have to deal with the Imployment, of the annual Rents of the Library: Or of any Parcel of Mony, that may hereafter by any be conferred upon it. For we cannot but presume, that casting what number of noble Benefactors, have already concurred in a Fervor of Affection, to that Publick Place of Study, we shall be sure in time to come, to find some others

in some Measure, of the Like Disposition to the Advancement of Learning.

Hereupon we do ordain for our final Conclusion, that the Vice-Chancellor for the time being, within fifteen Days after the Expiration of his Year, and of every Year ensuing, in case he be continued more than one in his Office, shall assemble the Library Visitors, together with the Keeper, to view the Mony remaining in the Iron Chest, and there exhibit in writing a faithful Account, of all his Receipts, Extracts, and Expences that Year: which they are presently to audit, with a diligent Inspection into every Clause and Branch: And therewithal before they

part, to return into their Hands his double Keys unto the Chest; Which with his written Account, the Chief Rector of the Chair, or if he should be absent, the Principal there present, shall after deliver to the new Vice-Chancellor in the next Convocation, (which is for that Occasion to be called, when the Doctor shall request it) and there in their Meeting, he shall relate by Word of Mouth, the State of the Chest, and of that Account: and the Account it self in writing, as it was delivered up, shall be presently put into the Chest, or some other Place of Safety. And if it shall appear to the said Convocation, upon the Auditor's Report, or in any other sort, that

the Accountant Vice-Chancellor very loosely regarding the Religion of his Oath, or his own Reputation, hath wasted or mispent some deal of Treasure, belonging to the Library, ( which for the eminent Dignity of his Person and Place, and for the Abundance of Trust, that we are always to repose in his Wisdom and Willingness, to administer all uprightly, we can never be induced to surmise of his Stewardship) that present Convocation ought to take Cognition of it, and to tax it with Respect, if it be but a Scape, or Oversight of slender Moment: But if it fall out in Proof to be a manifest Enormity, their Authority shall stretch to censure his Offence,

according to his Merit: and in all our former Acts, Constitutions, and Decrees, to expound and to alter, to abrogate and innovate, to add or to diminish, and to provide in all Events, for the Indemnity of the Library, as for a Treasure to Students of incomparable worth.





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